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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We remember with great affection and warmth, O gracious God, those people who volunteer their time and abilities in service to others so the blessings of life may be enjoyed by every person. With deep appreciation we offer our word of praise for the dedication and commitment for all those who share their gifts for the benefit of others. As each of us is bound together in Your spirit, O God, so may we reflect that unity with acts of kindness and deeds of compassion in all we do. Bless us this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CLAYTON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair announces there will be 20 1-minutes on each side.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. ENSIGN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states the following: on the first day of Congress, a Republican House will require Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut committee staffs by one-third, and cut the congressional budget. We kept our promise.

It continues that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: A balanced budget amendment—we kept our promise; unfunded mandates legislation—we kept our promise; line-item veto—we kept our promise; a new crime package to stop violent criminals—we kept our promise; national security restoration to protect our freedoms—we kept our promise; Government regulatory reform—we kept our promise; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits—we kept our promise; welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence; family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children; tax cuts for middle-income families; Senior Citizens' Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty; and congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature.

This is our Contract With America.

RETROACTIVE TERM LIMITS WOULD CLEAN OUT THE BARN NOW

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I often hear Republicans say that we need term limits because "we need to

clean out the barn." Look, I do not live on a farm, so I never use that phrase.

But, when I hear someone else say, "We need to clean out the barn," it sounds like something important, something that should be done soon. Not a few years down the road. But today. Now.

So, I do not understand when those who have been in Congress for 12, 20, 25 years say they support term limits, but they plan to stick around Washington a little longer, because these are the same folks who said, "We have got to clean out the barn."

Fine.

Grab a broom.

Clean out the barn.

But if it turns out that you are the one who is making the mess, you better get out of the barn, too.

I urge Members who talk about term limits to support retroactive term limits, where we count your accumulated service as of today.

That would turn term limits from rhetorical cheapshot into real change.

Retroactivity cleans out the barn, now.

SAVE OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE—BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I remember during the 1992 Presidential campaign when Bill Clinton promised he would balance the budget in 5 years. As the campaign wore on, he said "We will just cut it in half." Now, however, the President has decided to throw in the towel on deficit reduction, saying we should not even balance the budget by 2002.

That is just not another line of long broken promises. It is a betrayal of our children's future. They will pay the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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price if we do not balance the budget. They will pay the price for this fiscal irresponsibility.

Unless we take steps now to balance the budget, our children will look forward to higher taxes, as much as 82 percent of their income; higher interest rates; fewer opportunities; a lower standard of living.

Mr. Speaker, we will have to balance the budget soon. We will do it for our children; we will have to do it for our grandchildren. We will fight to see that they will not be the only generation that has a lower standard of living than their parents.

Mr. Speaker, we should save our children by balancing the budget.

CONGRESS IS JACK THE RIPPER TO AMERICA, BUT PLAYS SANTA CLAUS TO THE WORLD

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the American people are frustrated, and it is not hard to figure out. Congress cuts housing in America but gives a \$50 million gift to Jordan. Congress cuts jobs for American kids but gives \$20 billion to Mexico. Congress cuts money for schools in America but gives \$12 billion to Russia. Congress cuts health care for America's veterans who fought in our wars, but pays for the defense of Japan and Germany.

The record speaks for itself. When it comes to America, Congress is like Jack the Ripper. When it comes to the rest of the world, Congress is Santa Claus. The truth is, the American taxpayer has the best government that Japan and Germany ever wished for or ever thought they could get.

Beam me up. This is a sad day. How about some more cuts for America?

KEEP THE REPUBLICAN PROMISE: CONTROL BOTH TAXING AND SPENDING

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, in the last few weeks, the other side of the aisle has engaged in such heated and hysterical rhetoric that it has reached meltdown levels. Their leadership and their President can no longer be thought of as sober or rational, and their hysterical and pathetic claims reveal a total lack of reasoned analysis of the facts.

They are slaves to a welfare state that insists on high taxes and bigger bureaucracies. They fail to see the disastrous consequences of welfare, and they are blind to the out-of-control spending that may yet put us all in the poor house.

Last November, the American people short-circuited the tax-and-spend Democrats. They said no to deficit

spending and yes to accountability and responsibility. Republicans will keep our promise to cut wasteful Federal spending and to let Americans families keep more of what they earn. It is only right that we gain control of our taxing and spending, so that future generations may enjoy a decent way of life. Surely the alternative is budgetary chaos.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

(Mr. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in 1991, 14,355 students participated in the national school lunch program on Guam. In 1994, 18,000 students participated. If the Republican School Lunch Program had been put into effect on Guam in 1991, even with their 4.5-percent increases, by 1994, over 3,500 children would have been without school lunches.

In the same time period, throughout the United States this would have meant 1.1 million students without lunch every day. These are the facts. This is the reality behind the rhetoric. The Government pays 4.5 percent now and the children pay later.

If the majority has their will, they will in fact have increased funds for school lunches for next year, and it is likely that few children will go hungry in 1996, but will the number of children eligible for the School Lunch Program remain the same in 1997 and 1998 and beyond?

This blockhead grant will simply not keep pace with the growing number of kids, nor will it help them wherever they go. What price is the majority willing to pay to block grant school lunches? Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned, they are not paying any price. Our children are.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION IN SHAMBLES AS DEMOCRATS OPPOSE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Attorney General Janet Reno recommended appointing an independent special counsel to investigate the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Henry Cisneros. It seems that Secretary Cisneros may have lied to the FBI during his background check regarding payments he has made over the years to his mistress. Reports suggest that the payments he made to his mistress are much larger than he originally reported to the FBI.

Mr. Speaker, let us review the names of President Clinton's closest advisers that have resigned or are under a cloud of suspicion: Jocelyn Elders, Mike Espy, Les Aspin, Webster Hubbell, Rob-

ert Altman, Ron Brown, and now Henry Cisneros.

Mr. Speaker, who is next?

It is no wonder the President and his Democrat colleagues are spending so much time distorting the facts of our Contract With America. They have no ideas of their own, and their own administration is in a shambles.

THE VOTE ON H.R. 1158 AND 1159 DEFINES HOW MANY PRO-LIFE HOUSE MEMBERS HAVE BACKBONE AND HOW MANY ARE SPINELESS

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Contract on America we all know, through cuts on the school lunch program and other programs, has been hard on the kids. Today we are finding that the leadership of the Republican Party in the House is not only taking it out on kids, they are now going to take it out on the unborn.

Under H.R. 1158 and 1159, there is language in there that will protect the unborn throughout this country. The leadership of this House, the Speaker, has now required the Committee on Rules to issue a rule that, under adoption of that rule, it automatically takes the Istook language out of the bill.

I have talked to the right-to-life forces here, and they are telling me that this vote will be counted. This is the pro-life vote. We are going to find out what Members will kowtow to the leadership in the Republican Party when they put the pressure on, when they tell them there will be retribution if they do not vote for this rule.

We are going to find out how many pro-life people in this House do have backbone, and how many are spineless.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY

(Mr. GILCHREST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, as we take up the debate over the reauthorization of the Environmental Protection Act, we hear claims there is no need to preserve less well-known, often unglamorous species. It is easy to call for preservation of charismatic species like the bald eagle, the grizzly bear, and the sea turtle.

Some of today's most important medicines, as well as the keys to future medical crises, come from a wide range of animals, plants, molds, invertebrates, and other obscure wild species. In fact, more than 40 percent of the prescriptions sold in the United States today are derived from these organisms.